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October 24, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

David Ormsby-Gore came in to tell me what will be on the Prime Minister's mind when he talks to you at 7 PM our time. It is not his speech tomorrow but the question of possible next steps on the political track.

1. At what point should there be an initiative for political conversation? At some point there will clearly have to be a conference if there is not going to be a war. Whose initiative would be helpful here -- US? Secretary General? or some other power, perhaps the UK?

2. What should be the framework of discussion? The discussion might be framed in terms of exchange of military bases, but the Prime Minister and Lord Home think that is not too good. It would look like a rather cynical exchange and a weak ending to the U. S. beginning.

Therefore ~~the~~ thinks the preferred course is to get discussion on disarmament (with the recognition that something about bases might come up along the way).

1. In this context would the President see value in a Kennedy-Khrushchev summons to a meeting aimed at agreement on stage 1 of the general disarmament program. (David thinks this is not a good idea because the two sides are too far apart and because it leaves no room for the French.
2. Before such a conference there might have to be a standstill involving no import of arms and no blockade. (David thinks you should make it very plain to the PM that this is not an acceptable position and that the US cannot stand down its

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blockade without progress toward the removal of the missiles.

In summary, what is on the Prime Minister's mind is when and in what context conversations can be started.

David and I agreed that you would also want to bring him up to date on the present situation and on your own view of the immediate future.

McG. B.

The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited: An International Collection of Documents, from the Bay of Pigs to the Brink of Nuclear War

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The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited: An International Collection of Documents, from the Bay of Pigs to the Brink of Nuclear War reproduces a comprehensive collection of records from the archives of the three key governments involved in the most dangerous confrontation of the Cold war. Declassified records from the United States, Russia and Cuba significantly advance analysis of the historical foundations of the missile crisis, the policy calculations and considerations of President John F. Kennedy and premiers Nikita Khrushchev and Fidel Castro, and the overt and covert military and paramilitary operations that combined to bring the world to the threshold of a nuclear exchange. Topics extensively covered in the documentation include the failed U.S.-led invasion at the Bay of Pigs, renewed attempts to overthrow Castro through Operation Mongoose and Operation Northwoods, U.S. military contingency planning for conflict with Cuba, naval warfare, Soviet and Cuban decision making and communications during the crisis, and the repercussions for U.S.-Soviet relations, and Soviet-Cuban relations in its aftermath. Materials were identified, obtained, assembled and indexed by the National Security Archive, a non-profit Washington D.C. based research institute and library. The microfiche collection is accompanied by a printed guide and index.

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